

Appl. No. : **10/624,864**
Filed : **July 22, 2003**

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Formal versions of the drawings are submitted herewith. Applicant notes that no new matter has been added in these drawings. Applicant notes that a separation between two fixation components 36 in the structure depicted in Figure 4A has been clarified in the replacement drawings. The fact that is two separate components is indicated in Figure 4A which identifies the section as two components. It is also demonstrated in Figures 4B and 4C, which demonstrate that the fixation components 36 are separate. Applicant requests that the entry of the replacement sheets.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-37 were previously pending. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-12, 14-30, 32, and 37 have been allowed. Claims 2, 9, 13, 31, and 33-35 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Claim 36 stands rejected. Claims 2, 9, 13, 31, and 33-36 are presently cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims at a later point in time. Applicant requests the entry of the included formal drawings.

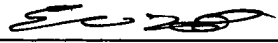
The rejection of Claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Pat. No. 6,083,258 is the sole rejection of the claims. Applicant has cancelled Claim 36. Applicant notes that this cancellation is not an admission of any relevance of the cited reference. For example, one of the differences between the teachings of the '258 Patent and prior Claim 36 is that Claim 36 requires expansion within the plane of the perimeter, which does not appear to be taught in Yadav.

In view of the cancellation of Claims 2, 9, 13, 31, and 33-36, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 1/9/06

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